

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 /018 W

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R 280954Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1229

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2955

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, IS

SUBJECT: POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

REF: STATE 94266

1. WHILE THERE IS NO AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN ISRAEL, EMBASSY WORKS CLOSELY WITH TEL AVIV'S ISRAEL/AMERICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, LTD. THIS ORGANIZATION, ALTHOUGH INCLUDING IN ITS MEMBERSHIP MANY LOCAL AGENTS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF U.S. FIRMS, DOES NOT QUALIFY AS AN "AMCHAM" SINCE IT DOES NOT MEET THE AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP CRITERIA GOVERNING AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE ABROAD. ITS RECENT REQUEST FOR AFFILIATION WITH THE U.S. CHAMBER WAS REJECTED ON THESE GROUNDS. THE EMBASSY OF COURSE ALSO HAS CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE IN ISRAEL'S MAJOR CITIES.

2. THE ISRAEL/AMERICA CHAMBER DOES IN FACT PROVIDE VALUABLE ASSISTANCE IN PROMOTION OF AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS IN ISRAEL. AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH THE EMBASSY INCLUDE:

A) USE OF CHAMBER'S OFFICES AS BUSINESS HEADQUARTERS FOR U.S. TRADE MISSIONS.

B) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION REGARDING U.S. EXHIBITIONS, TRADE CENTER PROMOTIONS, AND TRADE OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH CHAMBER'S NEWSLETTER.

C) GENERAL COORDINATION WITH RESPECT TO TRADE COMPLAINTS, INQUIRIES ON GSP, ETC

3. ALTHOUGH ISRAEL/AMERICA CHAMBER'S SMALL STAFF LIMITS

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ITS POTENTIAL FOR SUPPORTING EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL

ACTIVITIES, WE ARE EXAMINING WITH THEM POSSIBLE
NEW AREAS OF COOPERATION. SPECIFICALLY WE ARE EXPLORING
POSSIBILITY OF MORE FORMAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO ADS AND TOP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TELAV02955
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760162-0337
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760412/aaaaakbl.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 94266
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAY 2004 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <24 JAN 2005 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
TAGS: BGEN, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006